

Using Government Documents in your National History Day Research



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Sample project: Loving v. Virginia

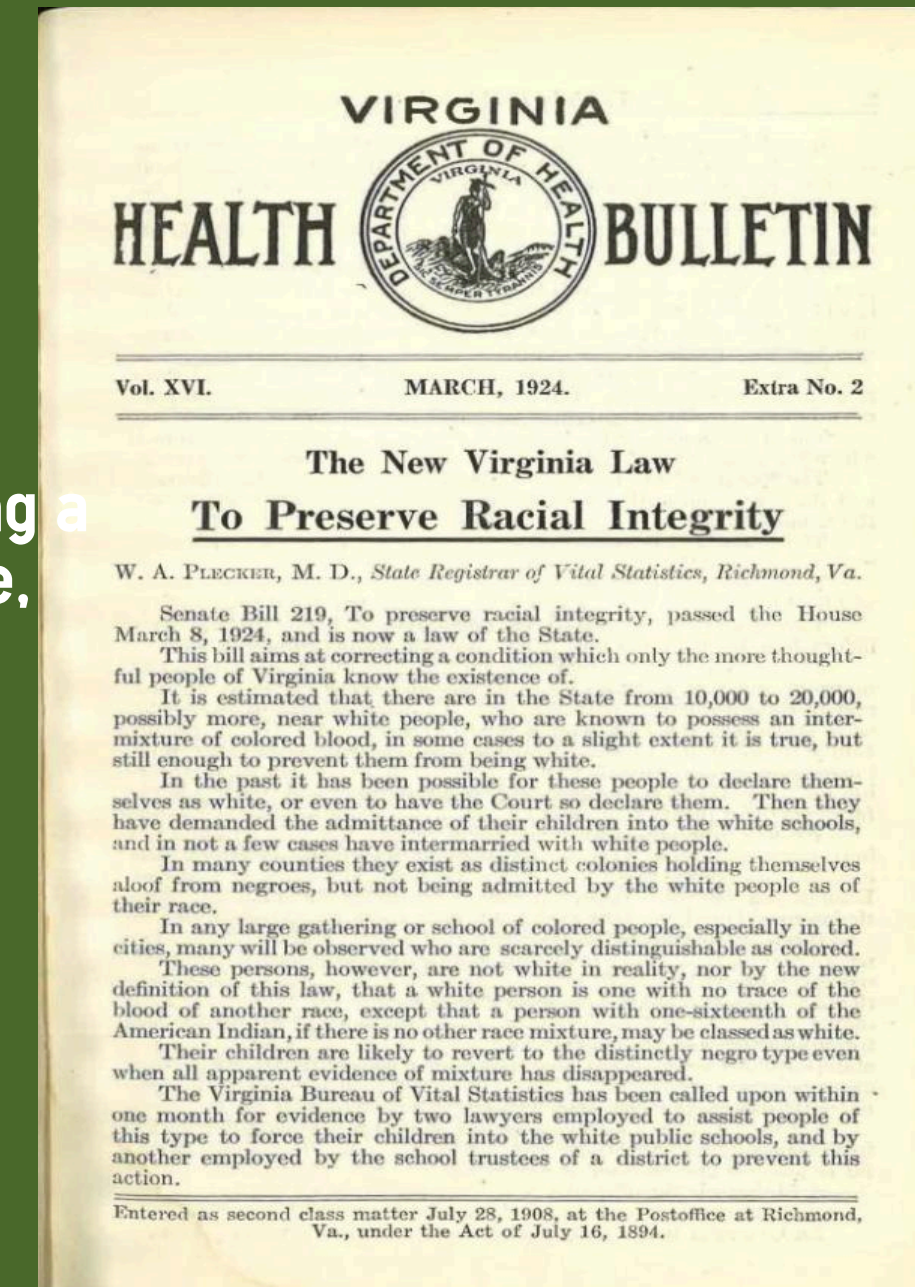
National Archives

Marriage licenses - primary document

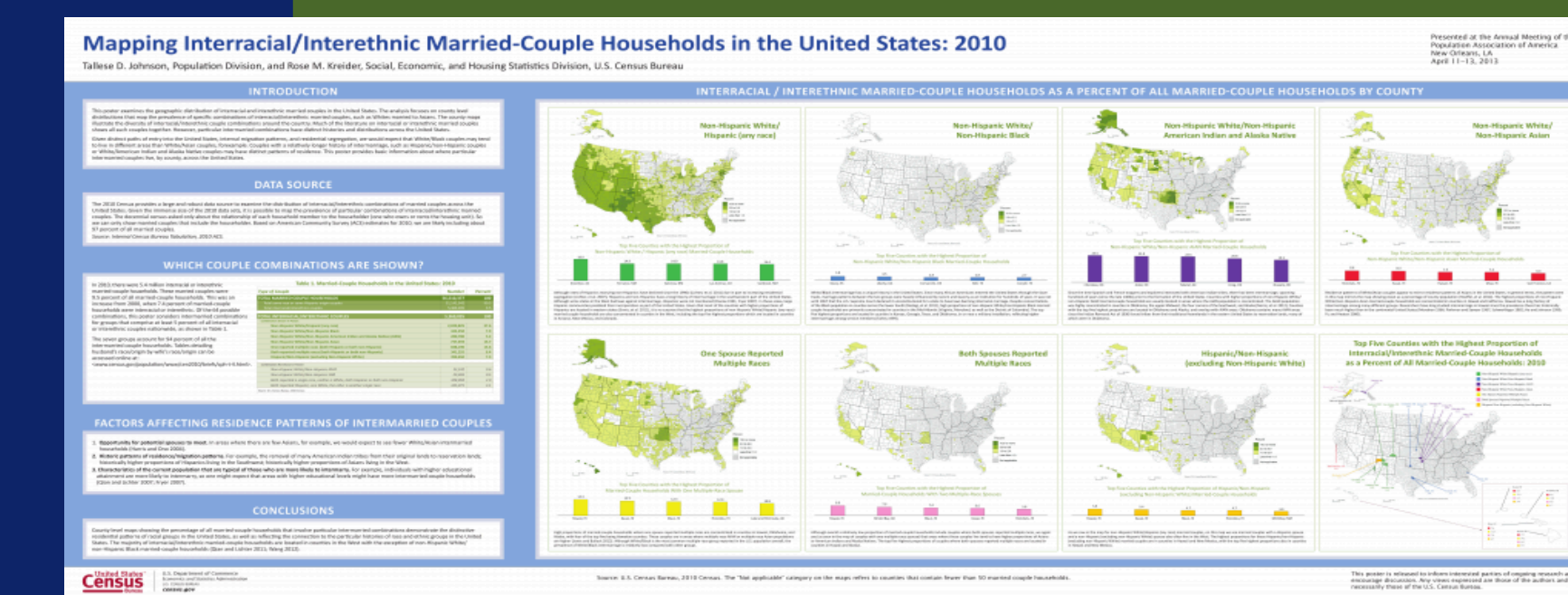
Rediscovering Black History Staff Blog titled "Virginia is for the Lovings" featuring original documents. Pictured is a telegram announcing the case decision.

Library of Congress

LOC staff blog containing case summary, timeline, and links to original documents and authoritative websites.



Census Bureau



State	Number of Interracial/Interethnic Married-Couple Households (2010)
Alabama	1,000
Alaska	100
Arizona	1,500
Arkansas	1,000
California	10,000
Colorado	2,000
Connecticut	1,500
Delaware	1,000
District of Columbia	1,000
Florida	1,500
Georgia	1,000
Hawaii	100
Idaho	1,000
Illinois	2,000
Indiana	1,000
Iowa	1,000
Kansas	1,000
Kentucky	1,000
Louisiana	1,000
Maine	1,000
Maryland	1,000
Massachusetts	1,500
Michigan	2,000
Minnesota	1,500
Mississippi	1,000
Missouri	1,000
Montana	1,000
Nebraska	1,000
Nevada	1,000
New Hampshire	1,000
New Jersey	2,000
New Mexico	1,000
New York	5,000
North Carolina	1,000
North Dakota	1,000
Ohio	1,500
Oklahoma	1,000
Oregon	1,000
Pennsylvania	2,000
Rhode Island	1,000
South Carolina	1,000
South Dakota	1,000
Tennessee	1,000
Texas	1,500
Utah	1,000
Vermont	1,000
Virginia	1,000
Washington	1,500
West Virginia	1,000
Wisconsin	1,500
Wyoming	1,000

Interracial Married Couples: 1980 to 2002

Mapping Interracial/Interethnic Married-Couple Households in the United States: 2010

ON THE PASSING OF MILDRED LOVING
HON. JAMES P. MORAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 6, 2008
Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the passing of a great lady and civil rights icon, Mildred Loving. I do not know Mrs. Loving personally, but I do know of her accomplishments for which she should be proud. At a time of Jim Crow and powerful forces of racial hatred and segregation, Mildred Loving and Richard Perry Loving proved that the power of love and the simple act of living true to their beliefs was stronger than any law. When Mildred and Richard married, they were breaking the law. As an interracial couple, they were forbidden to marry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Instead, they obtained a marriage certificate from the District of Columbia but returned to live in Virginia. For their crime, a year later, they were arrested, bound in their bedrock, and hauled off to jail. Under a plea bargain, they agreed to a 1-year suspended sentence under the condition that they not return together or at the same time to Virginia. Inspired by the civil rights movement, the couple challenged Virginia's Racial Integrity Act, taking Loving v. Virginia all the way to the Supreme Court and winning. As the Washington Post reported today, Richard Loving donated the couple's ACLU attorneys that the real issue was actually very simple: "Test the court," he said. "I love my wife, and it is just unfair that I can't live with her in Virginia." In my efforts to grant federal recognition to Virginia's Native American people, I have come across similar stories of courage, determination and their fighting to overcome Virginia's legacy of racial division and segregation. Today, we recognize Mrs. Loving, her life, her courage, and her determination for equality under the law. She was an American hero and we mourn her passing. (From the New York Times, May 6, 2008)

National Endowment for the Humanities

Created Equal Film featuring a section on the Loving family; excerpts from the motion picture The Loving Story

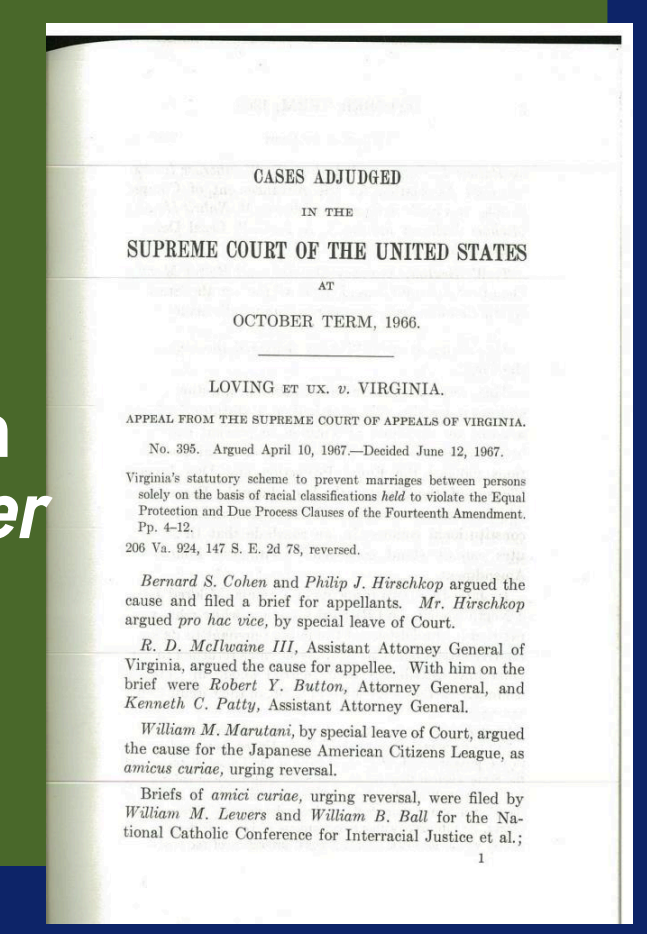


Govinfo.gov

Memorial of Mildred Loving in the Congressional Record

Library Print Resources

Scan of the original case in the Supreme Court Reporter in the Government Documents Department



What is National History Day?



ABOUT

National History Day®(NHD) is a non-profit education organization based in College Park, Maryland. NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Since 1974, NHD has continuously improved history education by providing professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators. The largest NHD program is the National History Day Contest that encourages more than half a million students around the world to conduct historical research on a topic of their choice. Students enter these projects at the local and affiliate levels, with top students advancing to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park.

NHD.org Suggested Federal Resources Online

- National Archives
- Library of Congress
- GovInfo
- Census Bureau

Check both current and past legislation on Congress.gov and Govinfo.gov

Benefits of Using the Library
Students may find that some of the links on the NHD website under "US Government History" are broken or outdated. As students come into the library, staff can show them the correct websites and provide a list of resources via email. At CPL, we often prepare a shared internal document with federal resource links specific to the topics students submit before their visit. We show the students the link on one of the department computers, walking them through the various site menus and options. Once they understand how beneficial the resources are, we offer to email them from the department email account (unless they opted to write them down).

NHD @ CPL

Each year, the Center for Local and Global History (CLGH), Government Documents, and Social Sciences departments at the Cleveland Public Library host an annual research day for NHD student participants. Librarians from each department present tips and tricks on how to use library materials in their projects. This year, in addition to presentations, the staff will be hosting individual research sessions with small groups of 2 to 3 students. To prepare for the day, staff pull various materials that could be used for the topics, including books that cover a variety of historical and societal topics, print and online government resources, historic photographs from our Photograph Collection, and newspaper microfilm reels. Students will have an opportunity to delve into materials specific to their topic, and if requested, have digital items sent to their school email. They have access to the photocopier and scanner as well as the all-digital microform readers. We are also partnering with the Western Reserve Historical Society (Cleveland, Ohio), who will present to the students as part of our NHD library program.

Making the Case for Print

In the era of "everything is online" there are a few times when a student can still be surprised with good old fashioned paper. Many students come in with topics regarding well-known legislation or court cases. When asked "would you like to see Title IX" or "Do you want to see the actual dissent from Justice Ginsburg?" their eyes widen in wonder. "Can I really see it? Is this the actual book?" Producing a print copy of the United States Code or the United States Reports brings a sense of joy to the library staff. Having a book to hold in their hand brings the topic and the people to life. No longer is the project an afternoon of scrolling on a smartphone. The primary materials that government documents provide give voice to our nation's leaders. It takes the resource from "about..." to "this IS".

Remember, not everything is online! Titles like the Public Papers of the President only go back to 1991 on Govinfo.

